MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

Urban District of Whittlesey

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Public Health Inspector

for the Year

1967

OFFICERS OF THE WHITTLESEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health :

D.C.Logan, M.B., B. Ch., D.P.H.

Surveyor & Public Health Inspector :

D.A.Bamford, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Surveyor & Additional Public Health Inspector :

J.B. Stocks

OFFICES OF THE WHITTLESEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
9, Queen Street,
Whittlesey.

Telephone Number Whittlesey 2224

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	23,362
Number of Inhabited Houses	3,367
Rateable Value (at 31.12.67.)	£336,988
Product of 1d. rate (at 31.3.67.)	£1,353. 14s. 10d.
Population (Registrar General's Figures)	9,900

TO:

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
WHITTLESEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I wish to present my Annual Report on the health of the people of Whittlesey for the year 1967.

It gives me great pleasure to inform you of the tremendous help I have had from my colleagues in the Health Department; Mr. Bamford, Mr. Stocks and Mrs. Tyers. They have continued to carry out their duties with great interest and enthusiasm and have been most courteous and tactful in dealing with the general public.

I have the honour to be,
Your most obedient servant,

D. C. LOGAN.

Medical Officer of Health.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b30275003

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	95	74	169
Illegitimate	9	7	16
Total:	104	81	185

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population

Whittlesey Urban District	-	18.7
Whittlesey Urban District adjusted	-	18.9
England and Wales	-	17.2

Illegitimate Live Births per cent of Total Live Births 8.65

STILLBIRTHS

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	3	2	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total:	3	2	5

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 Live and Stillbirths

Whittlesey Urban District	-	26
England and Wales	-	14.7

Five deaths occurred during the year, giving a rate of 26 per thousand births, compared with 14.7 per thousand for the whole of England and Wales. Three of the deaths were associated with prematurity, and two with complications at the time of delivery.

TOTAL LIVE AND STILLBIRTHS

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	98	76	174
Illegitimate	9	7	16
Total:	107	83	190

INFANT DEATHS (Deaths under one year)

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total:	1	1	2

INFANT MORTALITY RATES

Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 Total Live Births

Whittlesey Urban District	-	11.0
England and Wales	-	18.3

Only two deaths occurred during the year, giving a rate of 11 per thousand live births, compared with 18.3 per thousand for the whole of England and Wales. One death occurred in a child 12 weeks premature. The other occurred as a result of acute upper respiratory infection.

Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births 11.83

Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births 0

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)

Whittlesey Urban District	-	5
England and Wales	-	12.5

EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)

Whittlesey Urban District	-	5
England and Wales	-	10.77

PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)

Whittlesey Urban District	-	32
England and Wales	-	25.88

MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortion)

Number of Deaths

Whittlesey Urban District	-	0
England and Wales	-	170

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live and Stillbirths

Whittlesey Urban District	-	0
England and Wales	-	0.20

DEATHS (ALL CAUSES) Male 53 Female 50 Total 103

Death Rate - per 1,000 estimated population

Whittlesey Urban District	-	10.4
Whittlesey Urban District adjusted	-	11.96
England and Wales	-	11.2

Causes of Death in the Whittlesey Urban District, as supplied by the Registrar General for 1967 :-

	Male	Female
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-
Tuberculosis, other	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	-	-
Measles	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	6	-
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	4
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	8	5
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	1
Diabetes	-	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	11
Coronary disease, angina	15	7
Hypertension with heart disease	-	1
Other heart disease	1	5
Other circulatory disease	1	1
Influenza	3	4
Pneumonia	3	2
Bronchitis	-	-
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
Congenital malformations	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	5
Motor vehicle accidents	3	-
All other accidents	2	-
Suicide	-	-
Homicide and operations of war	-	-
Total:	53	50

The death rate in Whittlesey does not differ significantly from that of England and Wales as a whole. Cardiovascular and malignant diseases are the main killers, Excessive cigarette smoking is a factor contributing to death in both categories. This evil habit should be stamped out completely, and no effort should be spared in helping to do so. A higher death rate is seen among people who are overweight. Moderation in dietary intake should be stressed as a fundamental principle of ordinary living. Steady weight reduction should be undertaken by all who are overweight. There is no doubt that many find this difficult to accomplish but they should persevere and keep an ultimate ideal weight to be maintained always in mind.

In an attempt to reduce the death rate in one category of malignant disease, namely cancer of the cervix, all family doctors have facilities for taking smears to determine whether malignancy at any stage exists. Awareness of this service is gradually becoming known and is being taken advantage of by an increasing number of women.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Comparatively few notifiable diseases occurred during the year and there were no deaths.

The significant feature was the increase in the number of cases of whooping cough. 17 cases were notified against 5 the year before. Some of the ~~patients~~ cases occurred among patients who had been given the immunity courses recommended by the Ministry of Health. Quite clearly the strain of organism responsible was not controlled by the immunity produced by the antigens incorporated in the vaccines.

Generally speaking, immunisation in early childhood has come to be regarded as a normal procedure by most parents but regrettably there are still a few diehards who profess not to believe in it. Needless to say their beliefs have no scientific foundation. Indeed, it always seems as though their failure to have their children immunised is due to fecklessness, or laziness, or both.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

the following cases of infectious diseases were notified during 1967 :-

Disease	M.	F.	Total
Measles	19	17	36
Whooping Cough	5	12	17
Scarlet Fever	8	8	16
Pneumonia	3	1	4
Erysipelas	1	-	1
Dysentery	-	1	1
Total:	36	39	75

TO

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE

WHITTLESEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Lady & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the work carried out in the year 1967.

I would like to take this opportunity to record my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their support, to the Clerk of the Council and the Medical Officer of Health for their help and to Mr. Stocks and Mrs Tyers for the helpful way in which they have carried out their dutues.

I am, Lady & Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

D. A. BAMFORD.

Surveyor & Public Health Inspector

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

Water is purchased in bulk from Peterborough Corporation.

Frequent tests were made of the water from domestic taps and a satisfactory amount of free chlorine was found. The water is not plumbo-solvent, Peterborough Corporation test the water regularly and no treatment other than chlorination is carried out.

Although in the rural parts of the area there are many isolated houses only twelve do not have mains water supply.

The total consumption of water for the year, domestic and trade, was 141,196,000 gallons.

The comprehensive water scheme is now well towards completion although difficulties have arisen which have made the completion date very much later than was at first anticipated. The general progress to the end of the year has been good with the reservoir being completed and the pipe work substantially completed. It is now expected that the 18" diameter main from Fletton Spring will be operational early in the new year.

CARAVANS

There are 16 licences issued under the Caravan Act for single sites and one multiple site. These sites have been satisfactory and are of a good standard.

The County Planning Authority are still formulating what action is to be taken to close the two unsatisfactory multiple sites which have deemed planning permission and also deemed site licences.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Most of the town area and the villages of Coates and Eastrea are sewered. Because of the flatness of the area this sewering relies on five pumping stations.

The remaining properties in Snoots Road have now been connected to the main sewer and the septic tanks emptied and filled in.

It is now becoming more and more apparent that the existing sewerage system and disposal works are overloaded and that an extension of the existing works will be required as more properties are being planned and built. Coupled with this some bye-pass arrangement will soon be required to take the load off the Eastrea Road pumping station, probably a link sewer connecting the Drybread Road area direct with the works.

NIGHTSOIL COLLECTION

The Council employs a Contractor to empty pails, vaults and cesspools at properties which cannot be connected to the sewer. The Contract in 1967 covered 165 pails which were emptied three times in every fortnight. Septic tanks and vaults are emptied free on request once in any period of six months.

The conversion of properties from existing pails and vaults still progresses satisfactorily

REFUSE COLLECTION

The refuse is collected by direct labour and two vehicles are used. The town area is collected by a Shelvoke & Drewry 16/18 cu.yd. vehicle with compressor which is driven by the foreman and has four loaders. The outside areas are collected by a Shelvoke & Drewry 16/18 cu.yd. vehicle which has a driver and one loader. Built up areas are collected weekly and more isolated dwellings have a three weekly collection.

Routine servicing and washing of the vehicles is done by the drivers. Repairs are carried out by local garages.

Despite the fact that as more houses are being built and the weekly load increases only a few complaints are received about this service. These usually arise from late collections caused by Bank Holidays or long spells of bad weather. The foreman and staff continue to give a most satisfactory service, it is by their efforts that the collection runs smoothly and pleasantly.

The refuse collection service is now I feel working at saturation point and any further major development is likely to present a problem which will need considerable thought. Efforts will have to be made to secure more leeway within the service.

Number of bins collected during year	177,044
Town round weekly average	2.134
Outside area weekly round	1,205

REFUSE DISPOSAL

The refuse disposal tip is situated in New Road not far from the centre of the town but away from the dwellings.

The tip is open for the reception of rubbish and one man is employed full time to carry out levelling. By accepting rubbish it is hoped to prevent indiscriminate tipping of unwanted articles in dykes, grass verges, etc.

Being a potential source of rat infestation regular poison baiting was carried out and a good measure of control was achieved.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES

Only a few registered premises are now left for a general inspection. Arrangements for more routine visits are now in hand.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no common lodging houses in the district.

SWIMMING BATHS

The Council has an open air heated swimming pool in the Manor Field, Station Road. The pool is 110 feet long and 42 feet wide. The Manager carries out tests twice daily, more frequently in times of heavy loads, and by careful control of the continuous filtration and chlorination plant a satisfactory standard was maintained. Bacteriological samples of the water were also satisfactory in spite of high attendances.

MEASUREMENT OF AIR POLLUTION

Sampling of the atmosphere continues and the data obtained is dispatched to the Director, Warren Springs, Laboratory.

PETROLEUM INSPECTIONS

As a result of a routine inspection action is being taken against a local garage for storage of petroleum spirit without a licence.

INSPECTIONS

The following table summarises the inspections made in 1967 :-

	Inspections	Informal Notices	Statutory Notices
Cesspool, pail and vault work	27	5	-
Drainage	21	10	1
Factories, Workshops and Bakehouses	60	5	-
Slaughterhouses and Butchers Shops	270	-	-
Food Shops	81	4	-
Restaurants	8	-	-
Verminous and Filthy Premises	-	-	-
Housing	305	31	-
Nuisances	35	16	1
Rats and Mice	53	-	-
Caravan Sites	16	-	-
Refuse Collection and Disposal	32	-	-

Of the 71 informal notices served 67 were complied with. The two statutory notices were also complied with.

DISINFESTATION AND DISINFECTION

Several reports of wasps were made and were successfully dealt with.

HOUSING

Number of houses erected during 1967 :-

By Local Authority	22 Bungalows
By Private Enterprise	85 Houses and Bungalows

22 applications were made for Improvement Grants, all of which were approved and received grants.

15 Notices of Time & Place to consider the condition of 15 dwellings were served in the year and the following action taken :-

Demolition Orders	8
Closing Orders	5

8 dwellings were demolished and 17 families were re-housed from unfit houses.

The contract to provide 22 bungalows at Millfield Way is now satisfactorily completed and all the units of accommodation are now tenanted,

RENT ACT, 1957

There were no applications under the above Act during the year.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

Inspections made (under the Factories Act) for 1966

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	2	-	-
Factories in which Section 7 is enforced	48	19	-	-
Other Premises	11	16	-	-
TOTAL :	61	37	-	-

Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Found	Number of Cases in which Defects were found			Number of cases in which Prosecutions were Instituted
		Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	1	1	-	-	-
Closet Unsuitable or Defective	1	-	-	-	-
TOTAL :	2	1	-	-	-

OUTWORK SECTIONS 110 & 111

There are no outworkers in the district

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

ICE-CREAM

There are 44 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream; all the ice-cream being pre-packed. The only loose ice-cream sold in the area is sold from vehicles.

There are no ice-cream manufacturing premises in the area.

CONDEMNED FOOD

4 certificates were issued covering 6 items of foodstuffs which were voluntarily surrendered by shopkeepers. Condemned food is disposed of by burying in the Council's Refuse Tip. It was not found necessary to seize any diseased or unsound food.

FOOD PREPARATION

Premises registered for the making up of food	11
Fish Friers	3
Bakehouses	3
Cafes	2
Other food shops	39
Public Houses	32

Satisfactory food premises and food handling are of prime importance and it is essential for food handlers to learn the correct methods of dealing with modern food packaging, particularly frozen foods.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There is one modern privately owned licensed slaughterhouse in the area. It is well maintained and is capable of handling a much larger throughput than is being dealt with at present.

KNACKER'S YARD

There is one licensed knacker's yard which is satisfactory.

No live animals are brought on to the premises.

MEAT INSPECTION

All animals killed in the slaughterhouse are inspected mostly involving some overtime.

MEAT INSPECTION

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle (excluding cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	121	-	1	203	524	-
Number inspected	121	-	1	203	524	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	1	1	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	27	-	-	5	35	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci	22.31	-	100	2.~~46~~ 95	6.67	-
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

MEAT CONDEMNED

Bovines

20 livers distoma	221½ lbs.
6 livers abscesses	98 lbs.
2 lungs distoma	16 lbs.
1 calf premature	112 lbs.

Pigs

10 lungs pleurisy	52 lbs.
5 lungs pneumonia	10 lbs.
1 lungs abscesses	4 lbs.
4 lungs parasites	16 lbs.
2 heart pericarditis	3 lb.
3 livers cirrhosis	12 lbs.
1 liver milk spot	4 lbs.
1 liver necrosis	4 lbs.
1 liver fat infiltration haemorrhage	4 lbs.
3 kidneys retention of urine	¾ lb.
1 kidney cysts	¼ lb.
2 kidneys congestion	½ lb.
1 pig leg bruising	14 lbs.
1 broken leg	14 lbs.

Sheep

3 livers distoma	9 lbs.
1 liver fat infiltration	3 lbs.
1 lungs and spleen pleurisy	3 lbs.
1 lamb decomposing	182 lbs.